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ABSTRACT

The report summarizes state-level changes in black student enrollment that occurred between 1978-79 and 1987-88 and discusses campus-level changes since the low point of black enrollment in 1984-85. It concludes that, using any of several measures of college participation and setting aside the issue of student migration, Indiana higher education enrolls from 6,000 to 9,000 fewer black students than it should. The report does not present an action plan for increasing the number of black postsecondary students. Three sources of additional black students are pointed out: improved retention of current students; increased admission of recent high school graduates; and increased admission of black adults. It was further concluded that the current effort to increase participation by means of early intervention programs, such as the statewide campaign to improve preparedness for postsecondary education (SCIPPE), will not show results at the postsecondary level for many years. (GLR)

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UPDATE ON MINORITY PARTICIPATION

(Discussion Item)

February 10, 1989

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HE 023 630

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
Friday, February 10, 1989

DISCUSSION ITEM D: Update on Minority Participation

Staff Recommendation

For information only

Background

Since 1984, the Commission has reported annually on minority participation, with emphasis on Black participation, at Indiana's public postsecondary institutions. Today's report continues that tradition.

It summarizes state-level changes in Black student enrollment that occurred between 1978-79 and 1987-88 and discusses campus-level changes since the low point of Black enrollment that occurred in 1984-85. It concludes that, using any of several measures of college participation and setting aside the issue of student migration, Indiana higher education enrolls from 6,000 to 9,000 fewer Black students than it should. This is true despite impressive gains on some campuses.

The report does not present an action plan for increasing the number of Black postsecondary students. It notes that there are three sources of additional Black students — improved retention of current students, increased admission of recent high school graduates, and increased admission of Black adults. It also notes that the current effort to increase participation by means of early intervention programs such as SCIPPE will not show results at the postsecondary level for many years.

The report is intended to elicit discussion out of which an action plan might emerge. Any draft plan would return to the agenda for further public consideration prior to any recommendation for action.

Supporting Document

"Black Participation in Indiana Public Higher Education, 1978-79 to 1987-88," dated February 10, 1989

DRAFT 1/25/89

**BLACK PARTICIPATION IN INDIANA PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION,
1978-79 TO 1987-88**

Commission for Higher Education
101 West Ohio, Suite 550
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

February 10, 1989

FINDINGS

Table 1

Indiana Black Enrollment, 1978-79 to 1986-87 (Headcount at Public Institutions)

Between 1978-79 and 1987-88, total enrollment at Indiana's public institutions increased from 239,994 to 291,581. Although national data lag state data by several years, it appears that this increase has helped Indiana's college participation rate (30.9% of those aged 18-24 in 1985) move toward the national average (32.9%).

In terms of Black enrollment, Indiana had 183 more Black students enrolled in public higher education in 1987-88 (18,053) than in 1978-89 (17,870).

After declining throughout the first half of the 1980's, Black enrollment in Indiana public higher education appears to have stabilized since the low point (17,485) of 1984-85.

Table 1
Indiana Black Enrollment, 1978-79 to 1987-88
(Headcount at Public Institutions)

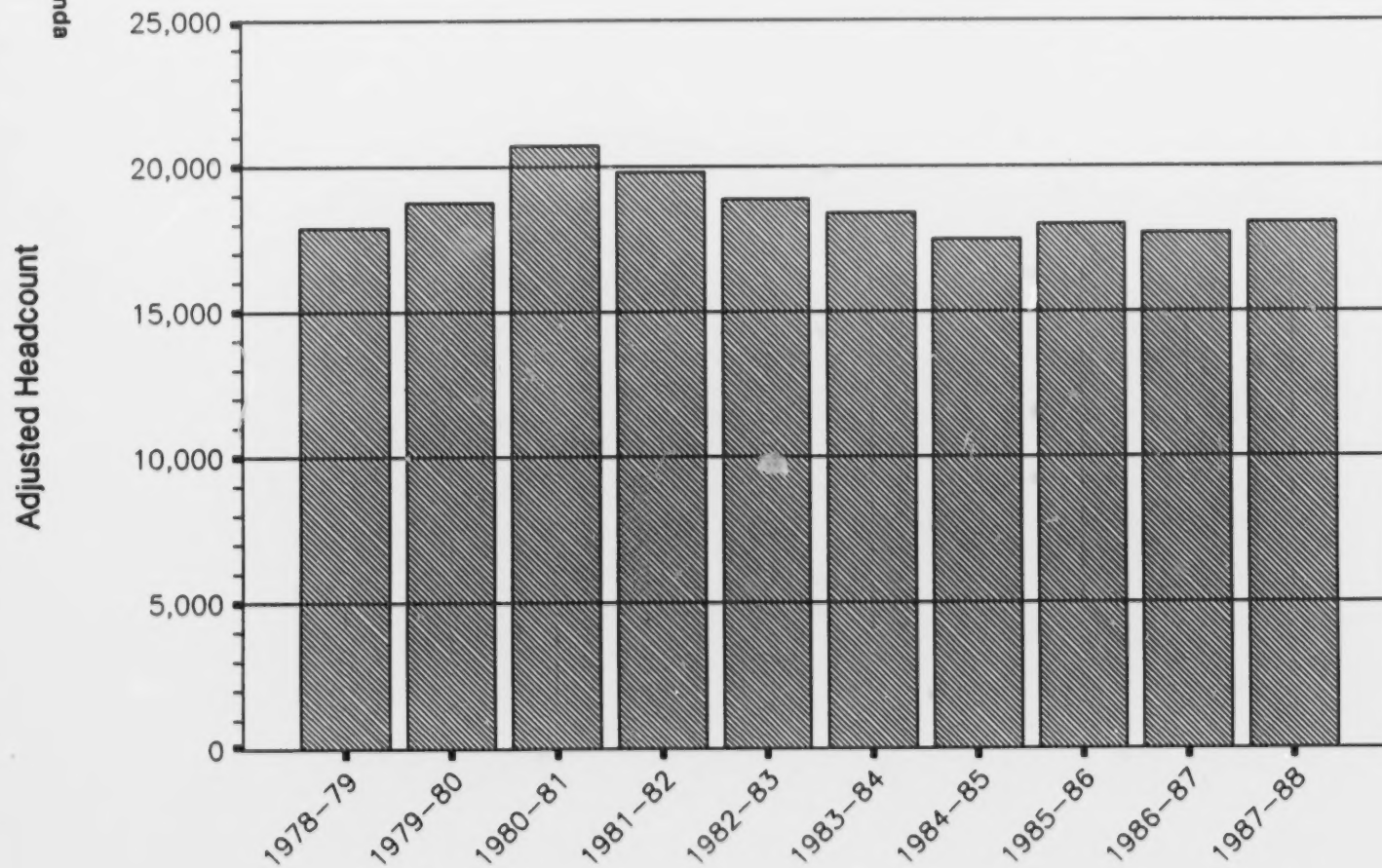


Table 2

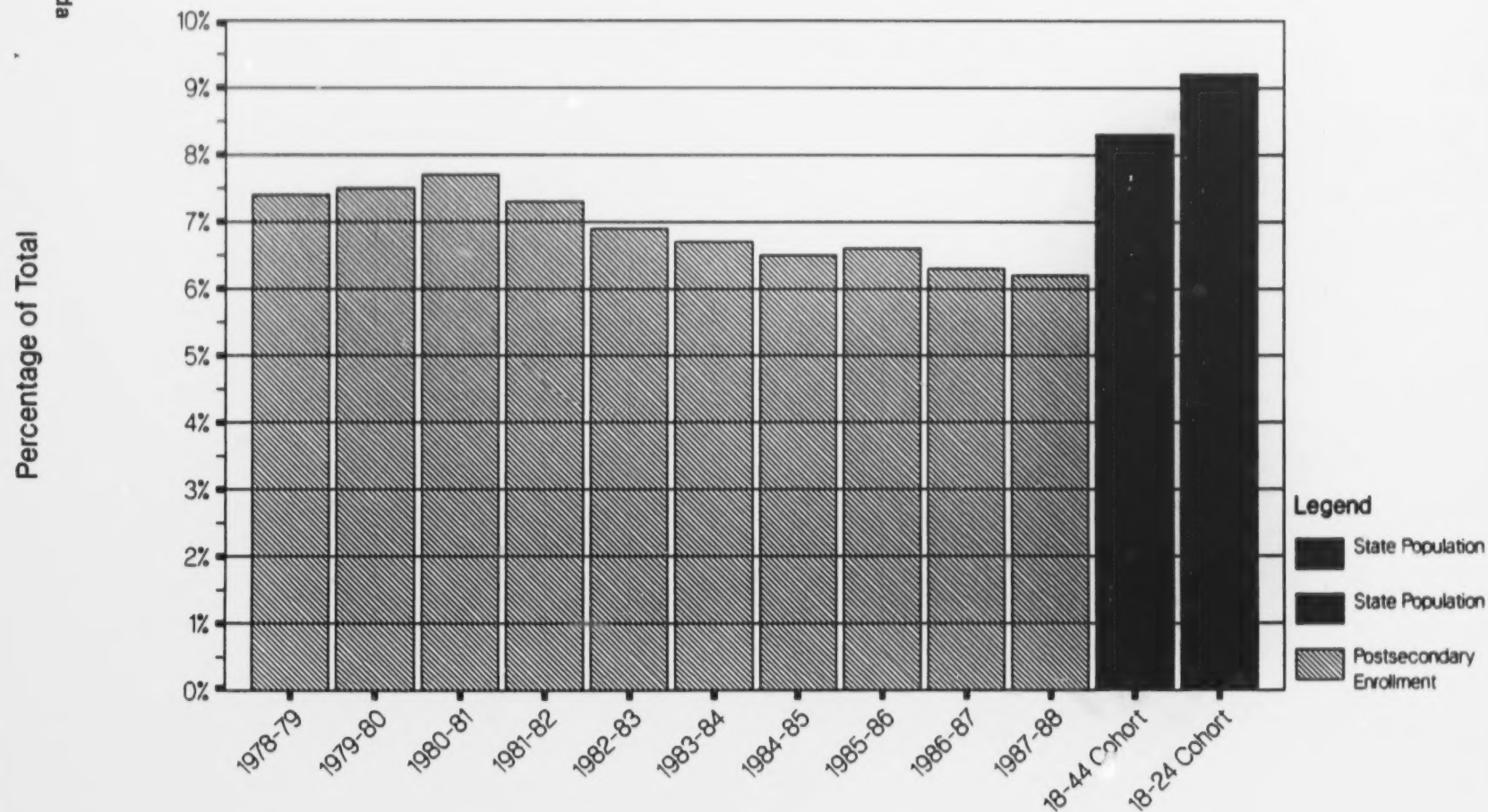
**Indiana Black Enrollment, 1978-79 to 1986-87
(Proportion at Public Institutions)**

In 1987-88, Black enrollment was 6.2 percent of total enrollment, continuing a decline that has persisted since 1980-81, when Black enrollment was 7.7 percent of total enrollment.

To restore Black enrollment to 7.7 percent of total 1987-88 enrollment (291,581) would require an additional 4,398 Black students.

To achieve a level of Black enrollment commensurate with the Black proportion of the state's 18- to 44-year-old population (8.3%) would require an additional 6,148 Black students, assuming that total enrollment did not change from its 1987-88 level. If the chosen benchmark were the Black proportion of the state's 18- to 24-year-old population (9.2%), the number of additional Black students required would rise to 8,772.

Table 2
Indiana Black Enrollment, 1978-79 to 1987-88
(Proportion at Public Institutions)



**Four-Year Comparison of Black Enrollment
in Indiana Public Higher Education**

Summary

For the 1985-87 biennium, Indiana higher education committed itself to a performance objective which called for improving minority participation. It reaffirmed that commitment for 1987-89 and has done so again for 1989-91. The state views its primary responsibility under this objective as the improvement of Black participation.

1984-85 was the year of lowest Black enrollment in Indiana public higher education since the Student Information System (SIS) was begun in 1978-79. The next two tables illustrate what has happened since that time. Between 1984-85 and 1987-88, Black enrollment at Indiana's public institutions increased by 568 students, from 17,485 to 18,053. Performance varied by institution, and by campus in multi-campus systems.

Changes in Black participation since 1984-85 may be summarized as follows.

IU System	-3.9%
PU System	+7.3%
ISU	-10.9%
USI	+12.1%
BSU	+11.7%
VU	+96.3%
IVTC System	+2.4%

Tables 3a and 3b provide greater detail.

Table 3a

**Four-Year Comparison of Black Enrollment
at Four-Year Campuses**

Between 1984-85 and 1987-88, the number of Black students increased at eight of fourteen baccalaureate campuses: IU-Kokomo, IU-South Bend, all four campuses of Purdue University, the University of Southern Indiana, and Ball State University.

At six other baccalaureate campuses, the number of Black students declined. These included the four campuses which historically have had the largest number of Black students: IU-Bloomington, IU-Northwest, IUPUI, and Indiana State University.

Table 3a
Four-Year Changes in Black Enrollment
at Public Four-Year Campuses

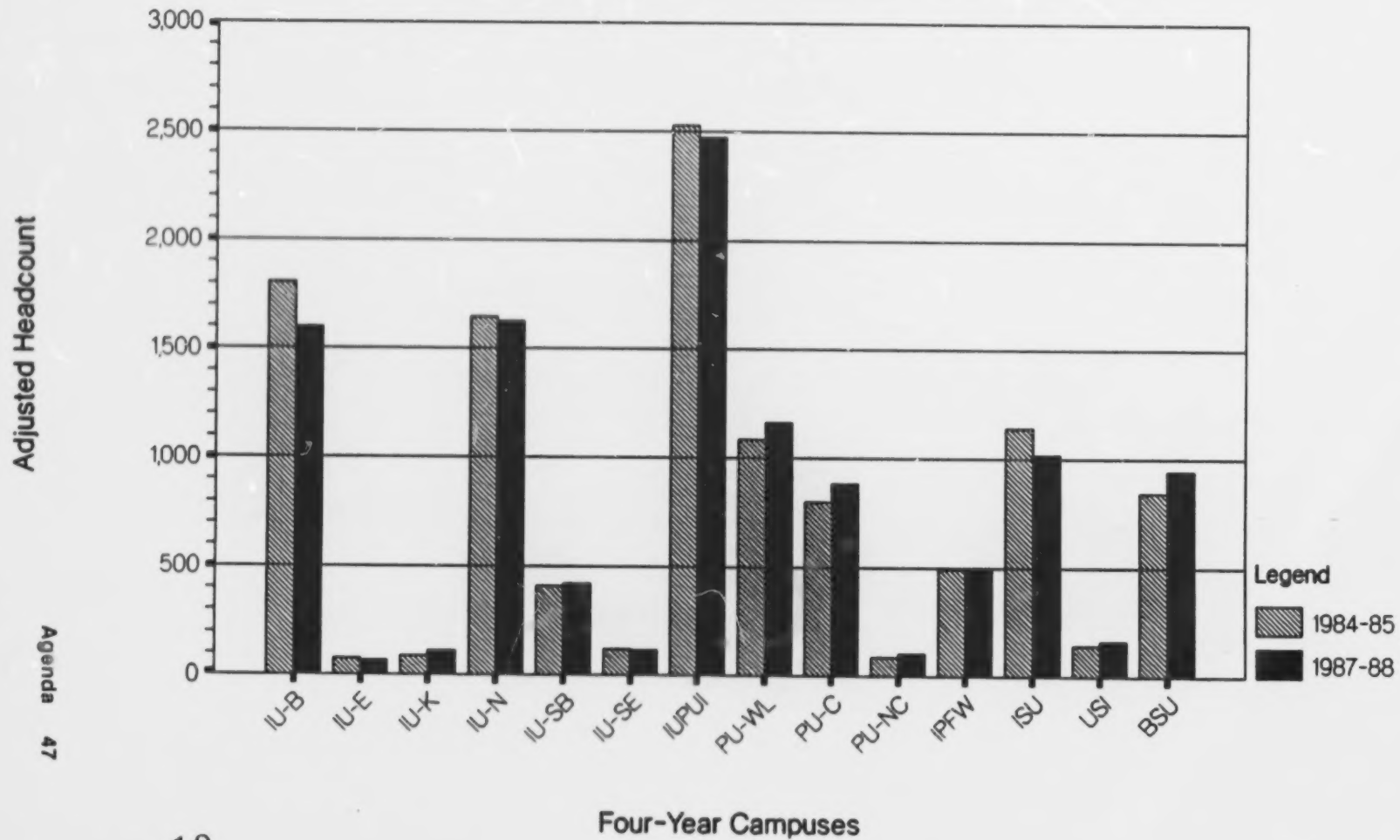
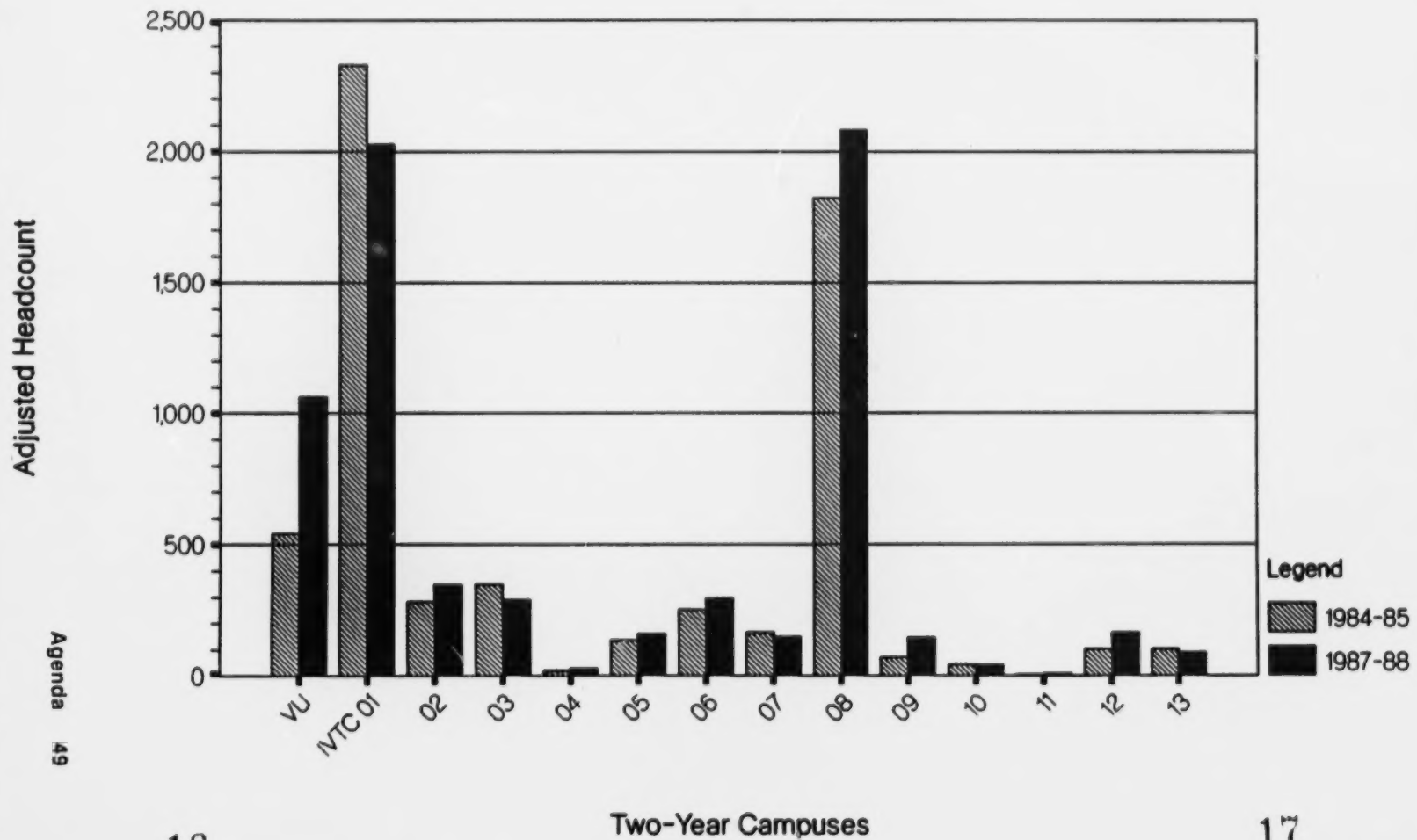


Table 3b
Four-Year Comparison of Black Enrollment
at Two-Year Campuses

Between 1984-85 and 1987-88, the number of Black students increased at nine of fourteen two-year sites: Vincennes University and the IVTC regions whose instructional centers are located in South Bend (Region 2), Lafayette (4), Kokomo (5), Muncie (6), Indianapolis (8), Richmond (9), Sellersburg (11) and Evansville (12). An increase in the Indianapolis region, which has one of the two largest Black enrollments in the IVTC system, was offset by a corresponding decline in the Gary region.

The large Black enrollment shown for Vincennes University is a mixture of students enrolled at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, at National Guard centers throughout the State, in Jasper, and on campus. In 1987-88, for example, 179 of its 1,062 Black students were enrolled at Fort Ben.

Table 3b
Four-Year Changes in Black Enrollment
at Public Two-Year Campuses



**Four-Year Comparison of Black Enrollment
as a Percentage of Total Enrollment**

Summary

The lowest Black enrollment (headcount) of recent times occurred in 1984-85. Since then, Black enrollment has increased by 568 students, from 17,845 to 18,053. In terms of proportionality, however, as illustrated by Table 2, Black enrollment has not kept pace with total enrollment.

The "appropriate" Black proportion of a student population depends, among other things, on the Black proportion of the population in a campus's service area. One state-level benchmark might be 8.3 percent, the proportion of Indiana's population between the ages of 18 and 44 that is Black. Another benchmark might be 9.2 percent, the Black proportion of the state's population that is between the ages of 18 and 24.

In 1987-88, five campuses had Black enrollments greater than 8.3 percent of total enrollment.

Table 4a

**Black Enrollment at Four-Year Campuses
as a Percentage of Total Enrollment**

Between 1984-85 and 1987-88, four of fourteen baccalaureate campuses increased the Black proportion of their enrollment: IU-Kokomo, Purdue-Calumet, Purdue-North Central, and Ball State. At IU-Northwest and Purdue-West Lafayette, the Black proportion of campus enrollment did not change. For the remaining eight campuses, Black enrollment as a proportion of total enrollment declined.

In 1987-88, two baccalaureate campuses had Black enrollments equal to or greater than 8.3 percent: IU-Northwest and Purdue-Calumet.

Table 4a
Black Enrollment at Four-Year Campuses
as a Percentage of Total Enrollment

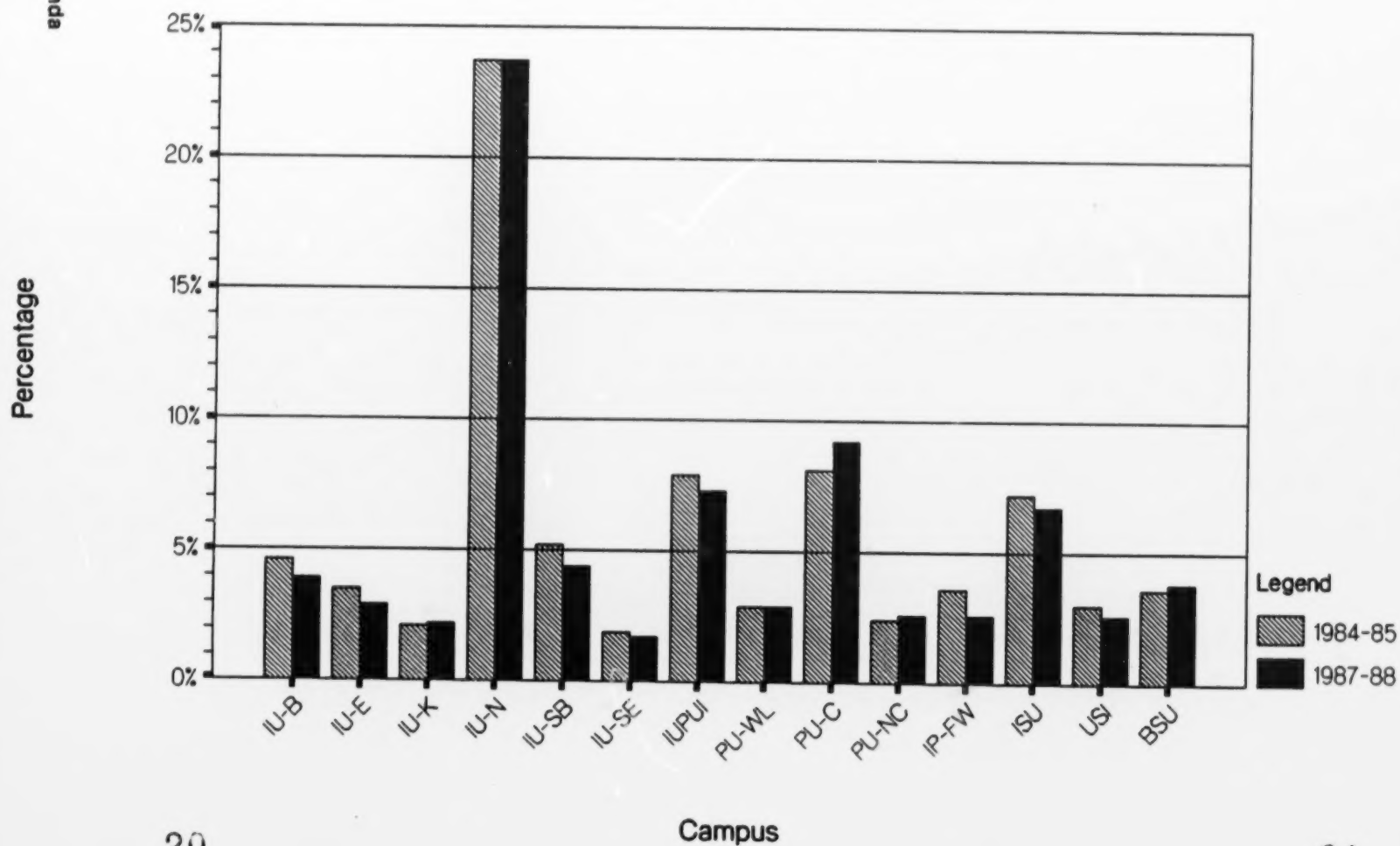


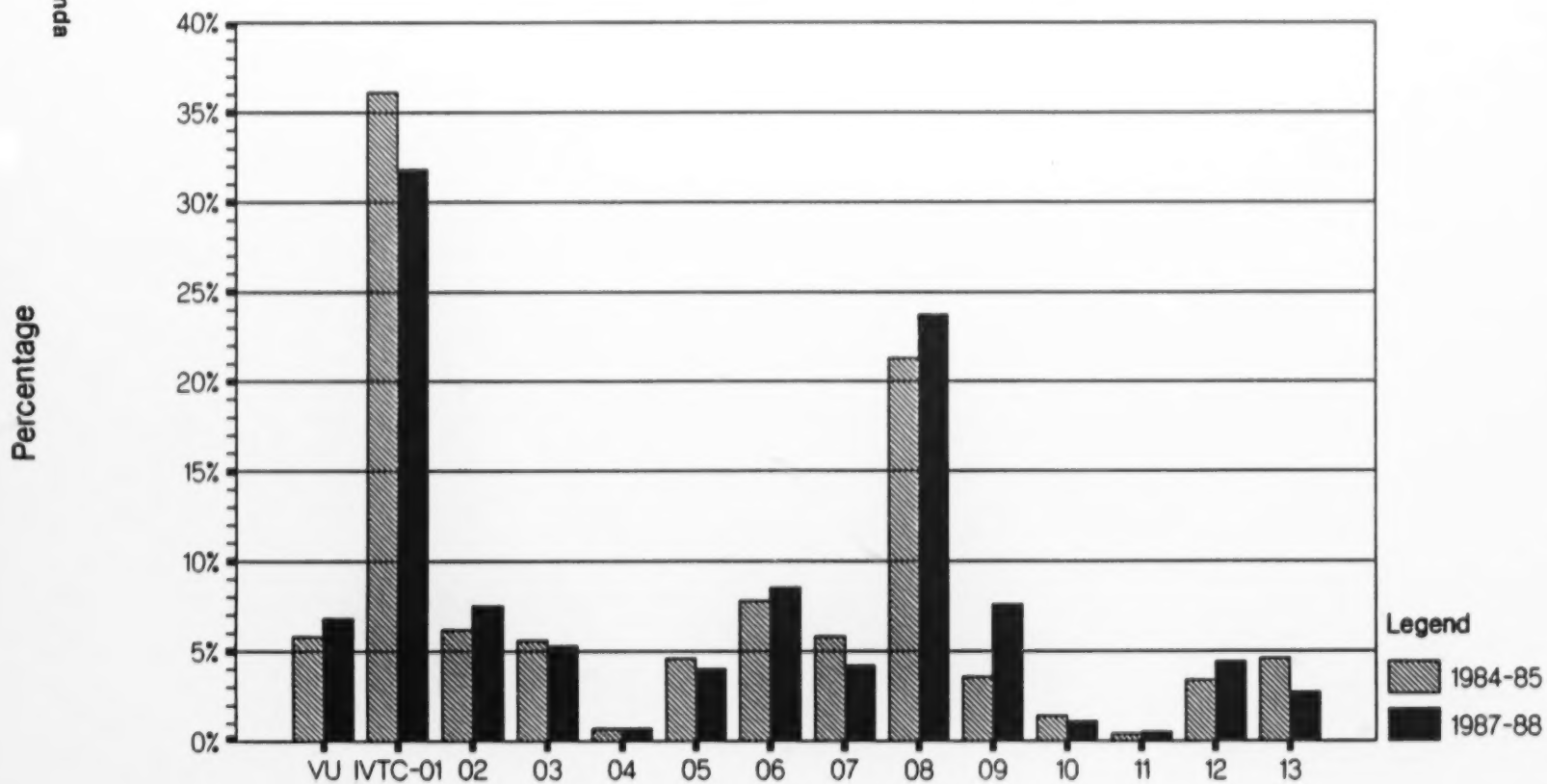
Table 4b

**Black Enrollment at Two-Year Campuses
as a Percentage of Total Enrollment**

Between 1984-85 and 1987-88, the Black proportion of total enrollment increased at seven of fourteen two-year sites: Vincennes University and the IVTC regions whose instructional centers are located in South Bend (Region 2), Muncie (6), Indianapolis (8), Richmond (9), Sellersburg (11), and Evansville (12). At an eighth IVTC site, Lafayette (4), the Black proportion of total enrollment did not change.

At three sites — IVTC in Gary, Indianapolis, and Muncie — in 1987-88 the Black proportion of total enrollment exceeded 8.3 percent. Between 1984-85 and 1987-88, however, the expansion that occurred in the Indianapolis region was exceeded by the contraction that occurred in the Gary region.

Table 4b
Black Enrollment at Two-Year Campuses
as a Percentage of Total Enrollment



CONCLUSIONS

1. Despite modest increases in Black enrollment since 1984-85, Black enrollment has not shared proportionally in the continuing growth of enrollment at Indiana's public institutions.
2. Many of the success stories regarding Black enrollment — for example, at USI or IVTC 09 — have had little impact on the statewide total of Black students. That is because they involve small campuses, or campuses serving regions where few prospective Black students live, or campuses with a tradition of low Black enrollments.
3. In 1984-85, which saw the lowest Black enrollment in recent years, five campuses enrolled more than 1,500 Black students. Four years later, in 1987-88, four of them enrolled fewer Black students than they had in 1984-85.
4. Indiana's major success stories regarding Black enrollment are (a) Purdue University's accomplishments at all four of its campuses, (b) Vincennes University's off-campus service to military personnel, and (c) growth at IVTC's Region 8 (Indianapolis).
5. Conservatively speaking — using the 18- to 44-year-old cohort and assuming otherwise stable enrollments — to achieve a level of Black enrollment commensurate with the Black proportion of the state's population would mean finding an additional 6,000 Black students.
6. Using instead the 18- to 24-year-old cohort, attaining a level of Black enrollment commensurate with the Black part of the state's population would require finding an additional 9,000 Black students.
7. To move from Indiana's 1985 postsecondary participation rate for 18- to 24-year-olds (30.9%) to a rate equal to the national average (32.9%) will require an additional 13,500 students. In order simultaneously to attain the appropriate proportion of Black students aged 18 to 24 (9.2%, or 9,000 headcount) two-thirds of the additional students will have to be Black.

DISCUSSION

What if the state were to establish as a goal the attaining of Black enrollment commensurate with the Black proportion of the state's population?

That would mean finding at a minimum an additional 6,000 Black students.

Indiana's independent colleges and universities enroll 1,800 Black students.

The remaining 4,200 students would have to be found through some combination of (1) increasing the retention of Black students, (2) admitting more Black recent high school graduates, and (3) admitting more Black adults.

Any plan for increasing the number of young Black high school graduates who go on to college will not show results for many years. For example, the 1989 statewide SCIPPE Campaign involving ninth graders might increase the number of Black youth who graduate from high school in 1992 and who are adequately prepared for college. In one recent year 7.6 percent, or 4,600 members, of Indiana's high school graduating class were Black. If the SCIPPE Campaign succeeded in increasing the Black proportion of high school graduates to 9.2 percent (5,500) and in inspiring half of the additional 900 graduates successfully to seek college admission, and then did that for ten years in a row — until the year 2001 — it would have provided an additional 4,500 Black postsecondary students.

Meanwhile, shorter-term strategies must be found. One appropriate focus would seem to be the retention of current Black postsecondary students.